

A PRE-HISTORIC CITY.

Professor P. W. Norris, Assistant United States Ethnologist, has recently discovered the ruins of an ancient city, five miles in extent, in the Kanacoha valley near the city of Charleston. The Professor commenced his explorations of the ancient mounds in August last, and has just completed them. During the process of the excavation of these mounds he has collected upwards of 4,000 fine specimens of various articles, which he intends to place in the National Museum at Washington. Seven of the mounds which he opened were from 20 to 35 feet in height, and from 300 to 540 feet in circumference at the base. He opened altogether fifty-six mounds in the Kanacoha valley. The articles he procured consisted principally of about thirty specimens of stoneware and sandstone pottery and pipes, many lance and arrow heads, hatchets, fish-darts, celts, gorgets, hematite iron paint hatchets and paint cups, several hundred pieces of shell money, bone and horn punches used for dressing the flint arrow heads into proper shape, twenty-one bracelets made of copper, one copper breast-plate, copper crowns, and many copper heads. All the copper was heavily coated with verdigris. In a mound 35 feet high and 545 feet around its base was a vault 12 feet square and 10 feet high, the walls of which had been supported by black walnuts timbers. In the centre of this vault, lying horizontally on its back, was a giant skeleton, 7 feet and 6 inches long, and measuring 19 inches through under the arms. On each wrist were large copper bracelets, four of which had been enclosed in cloth or dressed skin. Under the skull was a stone lance-head. There was a copper gorget upon the breast with two holes in it. This gorget, which was 4 inches square, is regarded as having been a badge of authority. In the right hand was a nematite iron hatchet having 4-inches blade. In the left hand were several lance-heads, 6 inches in length, of flint manufacture. Leaning backwards in a dark coffin, which stood somewhat out of a perpendicular position, was another skeleton, in such a position in relation to the first as to let the left hand extend over its head. On this left hand were two copper bracelets. In the right hand were a bunch of lance-heads, similar to those of the giant. In each corner of this vault was a warrior, enclosed in his dark coffin, and standing nearly erect, with a stone hatchet and lances in or near his hands. Nearly 100 various specimens of arms and ornaments were found in this one vault. In mound the remains of a large sized warrior was found lying flat on his back, with a copper crown covering his head and neck, ornamented with seashell and bone heads. On one side of this warrior lay five others, with their feet all pointing towards the central warrior. About this skeleton were found various weapons and ornaments. The question occurs, how came these skeletons there, five male and five female, all evidently buried at the time with the chief? Could they have been entombed alive? There were ten cemented double cisterns at the head of each skeleton, all containing water. For 30 feet above, and more than that distance around this spot, there was hard earth, dry like mortar, which had to be excavated with picks. There is another mound at about two miles' distance, 25 feet high, and 306 feet in circumference. The top of this mound is a small flat plane, 40 feet in diameter. Its top and sides, to a depth of about 2 feet, were covered with the natural soil. The entire remainder of the mound was composed of burned ashes, which had all been deposited in dark vessels containing about half a bushel each. About the centre of the mound were two large skeletons, in a sitting posture, facing each other, and their hands extended, palms upward, towards one another. Resting upon their hands was a curious altar, made of stone, of about 2 feet in diameter, the concave side up, and filled with ashes. On its top was a flat stone cover with two holes in it, and having on it the ancient totem marks. Down even with the natural surface of the ground in this mound was found an immense slightly concave altar; the centre of which was filled to about the depth of 6 inches with fine ashes. Around farthes from the centre, there were ashes and bits of human bones, piled up to the depth of nearly 2 feet. The Professor says there cannot be the least doubt but that these ashes are the cremated remains human beings.—*Harvard's Science-Gossip.*

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in the front or rear of the
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Without written permission from the
Manager of said Hotel.
All hacks violating this rule, espe-
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